

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
April 19 & 20, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9 A.M., on April 19, 2005 in Room 1D2 of the Transportation Building in Olympia, Washington.

Commissioners present at the meeting were: Chair Stedman, Ed Barnes, Bob Distler, Dick Ford, Elmira Forner, A. Michèle Maher and Dan O'Neal.

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOP

System Efficiencies

Elizabeth Robbins, Manager, Policy Development and Regional Coordination, opened the presentation by providing an overview of policy strategies and proposed investment proposals.

Today's presentation is framed around nine strategic issues: system preservation; safety; transportation access; system efficiencies; bottlenecks and chokepoints; building future visions; moving freight and strong economy and jobs. The presentation included a current timeline to complete the WTP and issues to be discussed. The main topic is four issues connected to demand capacity and imbalance. For further information please refer to agenda item number one and two handouts.

David Forte, Systems Planning Manager, Urban Planning Office, provided an overview of the purpose of tolling. The Department is considering how tolling can be used on the system to control efficiency or to raise revenue for a specific area. In conclusion this is a policy direction exercise to find out where this issue should go.

Judy Giniger, Director, Public Transportation and Rail, shared that policy needs to be developed regarding park and ride lots. The Department has been involved with park and ride facilities in a very undefined way for a number of years without a clear policy that defines the role of the state for developing, owning or leasing these facilities.

John Sibold, Director, Aviation Division, shared information regarding aviation efficiency strategy. He noted that as part of the airport system planning investments are being target based on categories in order to provide financial investment strategy.

Rico Baroga, Manager, Maintenance Accountability Process, shared information regarding basic highway maintenance needs. He noted that routine maintenance has been kept on track with the exception of the big items that are beyond the scope of maintenance.

Gummada Murthy, Director, Maintenance and Operations Division, commented briefly regarding the escalation of maintenance costs and its impact on every aspect of operations.

Scott Zeller, Acting State Traffic Engineer, shared information regarding traffic operations and the demands on system capacity. He provided an overview of the methods that the Department currently uses to maintain system capacity.

Ray Deardorf, Planning Director, WSF, shared information regarding WSF's plans to optimize the efficiency of the current ferry system.

Theresa Smith, Public Transportation and Rail Division, shared information regarding transit expansion and congested corridors.

Charles Prestrud, Acting HOV/TDM Manager, shared information with the Commission regarding HOV lanes miles and operations.

Ms. Smith provided information regarding the park and ride system and efficiency of the corridor.

Bottlenecks and Chokepoints

Ray Deardorf, Planning Director, WSF, briefed the Commission regarding policy and strategy leading to capital investment. He provided an overview of an incorporated regionally adopted population and employment forecast that will be used as a baseline in the ferry system model looking forward in order to project traffic growth.

Dean Lookingbill, Executive Director, Regional Transportation Council, shared information with the Commission regarding bottlenecks and chokepoints proposals relative to freight/passenger rail.

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Don Griffith, Legislative Liaison, provided an update of legislative activities in the 2005 Legislative session. Refer to agenda item number three handouts for further information.

Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, shared information regarding Department funding proposals to the Legislature. She commented briefly regarding the Governor's proposal to make cuts to mid-management within state government.

UPDATE OF CITY ARTERIAL PRESERVATION RATINGS

Bob Brooks, Pavement Technical Engineer, Highways and Local Programs, provide a biennial report to the Commission. He noted that a component of the Transportation Efficiencies Bill directs cities to report the condition of their arterial networks (federally funded classified arterial routes). A plan has been worked out with the cities to accomplish the Legislature's directive. For further information refer to agenda item number four handout.

COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING UPDATE

Don Wagner, Administrator, Southwest Region, provided a high-clipped overview of the Columbia River Crossing Project.

Doug Ficco, Co-Project Director, Columbia River Crossing, provided an overview of the

crossing plan and an update on the status of the study. He distributed a handout of recent analysis on two potential tolling options. For further information refer to agenda item number five and attachment A.

WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOP

Barb Ivanov, Director, Freight Strategy and Policy, provided an overview of the entire freight system and emerging recommendations. For further information please refer to WTP Workshop, Phase Two, Demand Capacity Imbalance, Moving Freight folio and handout.

PUBLIC AND LEGISLATOR COMMENT PERIOD

Eugene Hoglund, Citizens for an Elevated Solution, shared his concerns regarding earthquake hazards in the greater Seattle area and the potential effects on the Alaskan Way Viaduct tunnel proposal.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary MacDonald reported that a recent inspection of the Alaskan Way Viaduct indicated that it has settled a bit more.

Jerry Weigle, Bridge and Structures Engineer, WSDOT, noted that as a result of the Viaduct settling at piers 93 & 94 repairs will need to be made by 2007. For further information refer to agenda item number nine handout.

Bill Leonard and Barb Avery, Environmental Services, WSDOT, shared information regarding wetlands mitigation costs.

Mr. Weigle, provided a briefing on the status of anchor cable replacement on the Hood Canal Bridge. For further information refer to agenda item number nine handout.

Commissioner Barnes motioned that the November 16 & 17, 2004 and December 14 & 15, 2004 meeting minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAN O'NEAL, Chair

RICHARD FORD, Vice-Chair

EDWARD BARNES, Member

VACANT

ROBERT S. DISTLER, Member

ELMIRA FORNER, Member

DALE STEDMAN, Member

DOUGLAS MACDONALD, Ex-Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

REEMA GRIFFITH, Administrator

DATE OF APPROVAL